Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
R3RBX

TLPL

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE GIFT OF

Mr. John J. Callahan

Stack

Will H. Bork
Toledo

TOLEDO

Illustrated.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1888.



SCENE FROM BRIDGE STREET.

TOLEDO.

Less than a century ago, the world contained but one Toledo—Toledo in Spain. It was an unpretentious city of itself, but the history of the nation made a history for Toledo. Within its walls were made the famous weapons that were known the world over as the Toledo Blade, and within its walls 350 years ago the European princes met and established a "Perpetual Peace" a peace that was destined to be but the forerunner of bloody wars.

How strong in contrast is the Toledo of the New World! Created at a time when the Nation's life was hanging in the balance, when the seeds that were sown by the founders of the Constitution had scarcely taken root, christened in a baptism of blood that marked the second conflict between the young Republic and the mother country and that proved to be the last of those interneciary struggles; fostered and reared through the most exciting periods of our country's history—the modern Toledo stands to-day, not as a relic of barbarous ages, but as the prototype of the younger American cities. The territory surrounding Toledo is rich in its historical

Local hist.

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

356071E Stack



GOVERNMENT BUILDING.



SCENE ON HURON STREET.



WARREN FROM MADISON.



LOOKING NORTH FROM PRODUCE EXCHANGE.


SUMMIT STREET FROM MONROE.



SCENE IN CITY PARK.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH.



CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



INTERIOR OF I. N. REED'S DRUG STORE.

associations. The Maumee Valley from the source of the river even to the point where it empties sluggishly into Lake Erie, is one vast battle field wherein Mad Anthony Wayne won guerdons of renown, and where brave Gen. Harrison disputed successfully the encroachments of the British red-coats and the British red-skins. Those were dark, grewsome days for the pioneers of the North-west territory, for the defeat of the handful of American troops meant the entire country would be overrun with the savage Indians who were instructed by their British allies to pillage and burn and kill.

A few miles above Toledo can be seen to-day, the remains of Forts Meigs and Miami, which played an important part in repulsing the enemy, and afterwards in developing the surrounding territory. The line of earth works is still plainly visible, and some of the timbers are yet standing.

The country which constitutes North-Western Ohio came into the possession of the United States by a treaty made with the Indians at Greenville, and many years later, the twelve miles square at the foot of the Rapids of Miami was purchased by a syndicate of Eastern capitalists. Out of this syndicate's operations sprang the two rival towns of Vistula and Port Lawrence; but it did not take the leading men of each town long to see that this rivalry was injuring both with benefit to no one. A form of consolidation was thereupon arranged, and about 1832 the modern Toledo sprang into existence. There was no earthly reason for calling the new creation Toledo. It had no more resemblance to the mediaeval Toledo than a straggling village propped up in the midst of a swamp *can* have to an old-fashioned city built upon the rocks. But, however inappropriate the name may have been then, the new Toledo is destined to play as important a part in the history of this country, as the old Toledo played in the history of Spain, and certainly there is no one living in Toledo to-day, who would desire to have the name changed.

Toledo, in its early years, led a precarious existence. It was like a child brought up on a bottle, rather the worse for not having better care; everything seemed to be against its success. The very swamps were anxious to advertise their existence, and the rank odors with which they loaded the air, would have frightened away less hardy pioneers. The lake was the only means of communicating with the great East, and when the slow boats that were then used were storm-stayed or ship-wrecked, oat-meal and corn cakes formed the chief articles of diet, for the inhabitants of the struggling village.



LIBBY GLASS WORKS.

But in spite of all the drawbacks, the little place gradually extended its limits. What is now the principal business street of the city, occupied the same post of honor with the village. Summit street was, however a succession of knolls, not much like the magnificent thoroughfare of the present day. Mud holes were the prevailing fashion, and the poor farmer who drove into town with his jag of wood or load of grain was quite likely to loose a wheel in one of these mires, and curse his misfortune for living near such a wretched place. The next step was a corduroy, and then came the plank road which, in time, was succeeded by the cobblestone pavement. These changes came with the growth of the village, and as its streets improved, so did its houses and business blocks. Brick was introduced at an early day by Major Stickney, who built his house of that material, but it was a long time afterwards that anything other than wood came into popular use for building purposes.

The founders of Toledo were land speculators, and that accounts in a great measure, for the straggling appearance which the city has to-day. These speculators instructed their surveyors to mark out the lots for convenience and value without any reference to the form or symmetry of the town, and there is no doubt but that the surveyors obeyed orders to the letter, for Toledo has not the least claim to either form or symmetry. Every street starts out independently of all



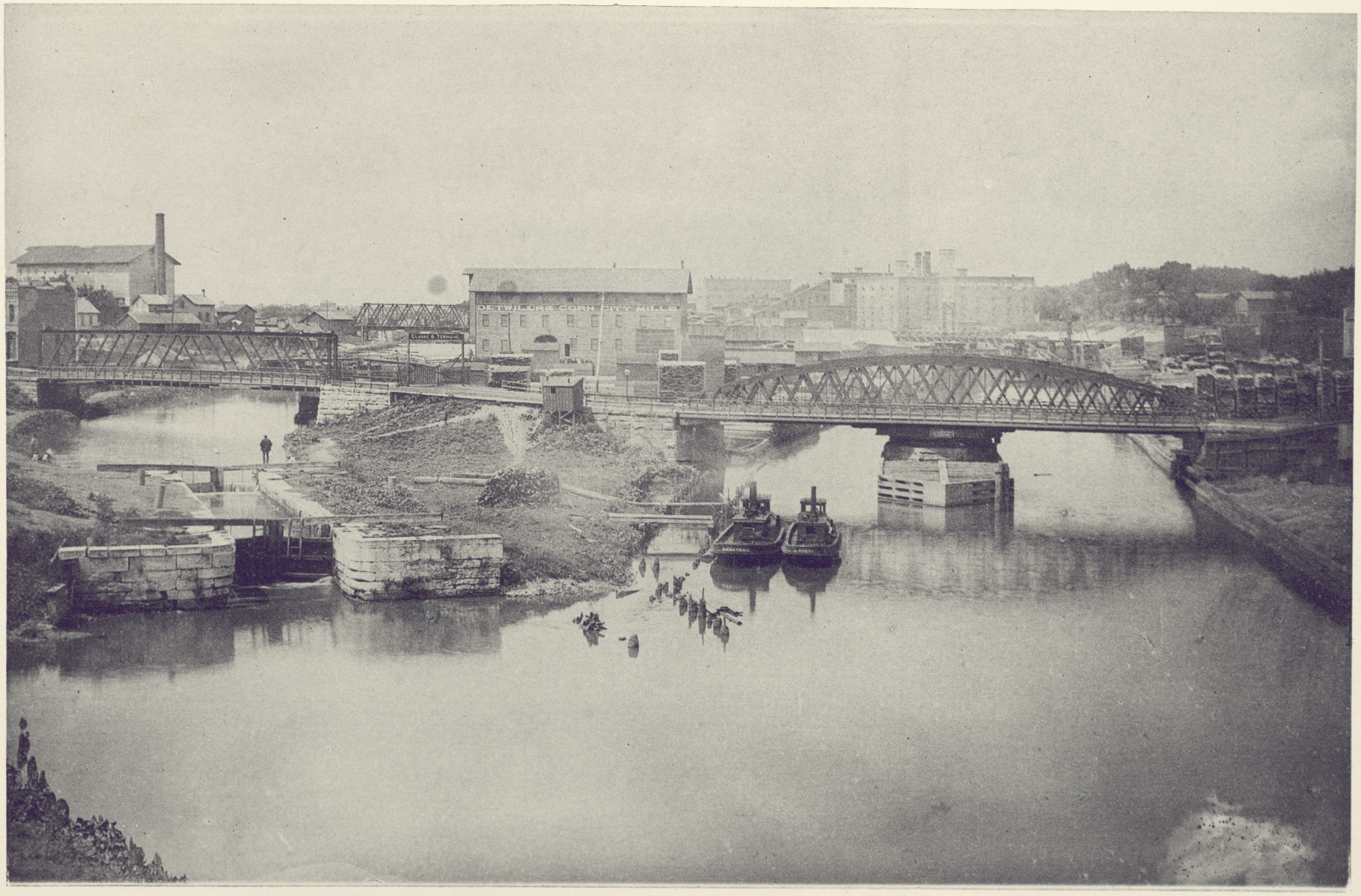
WARREN SCHOOL.



FRONT STREET, EAST TOLEDO.



KELCHAM BLOCK.



SCENE FROM ST. CLAIR STREET.



MONROE ST. FROM HURON ST.



RESIDENCE OF CARL LENK.



WOODRUFF AVE. FROM SCOTTWOOD.



RESIDENCE OF A. L. SPITZER.



MASONIC TEMPLE.



SCENE ON WOODRUFF AVE.

other streets and maintains its indifference to its outer extremity. A few are parallel, but this does not seem to have been done intentionally, but was due rather to the force of circumstances.

Another feature of the young Toledo deserves special attention at this point. Its early projectors, profiting doubtless by the experience of others, were determined to get what benefits should arise from the growth of the city, and with this end in view, they not only purchased all the available property within a radius of a dozen miles, but platted the greater part of it, and had it enrolled within the city limits. Hence, Toledo, even when it was a village of a few thousand inhabitants, covered an area which was scarcely equalled by any city in the country. There was nothing compact about it. The houses we set in large yards, (they had not yet attained the dignity of lawns) and were far enough apart to give them a somewhat isolated appearance.

But, uninviting as this feature may have been at that time, it had much to do with the present prosperity of the city. The old adage "Health makes Wealth" was never better illustrated. Gradually the swamps were filled up; gradually the dismal croak of the frogs receded as the villagers drove them from their accustomed haunts, and as gradually, the dank, poisonous vapors that arose from these swamps and threatened death to all, gave way to a purer, healthier atmosphere. The ratio of mortality which was, in the early history of the city, very high, rapidly



TOLEDO ASYLUM FOR INSANE.



SCENE IN WOODLAWN CEMETERY.



SCENE AT PRESQUE ISLE.



LOOKING UP RIVER FROM CHERRY STREET.



SUMMIT ST. FROM MADISON.



SCOTT MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.



RESIDENCE J. H. BOWMAN.

2238 MADISON AVE.



RESIDENCE H. S. WALBRIDGE.

2235 MADISON AVE.



GENDRON IRON WHEEL COMPANY.

diminished until Toledo took rank with the healthiest cities of the world.

Having said this much incidental to the history of the country surrounding Toledo, perhaps it would be well to locate the city. It is on the right bank of the Maumee, which empties into Lake Erie some seven miles below the city. The river which takes a general north-easterly direction deflects more to the east when opposite the city, and then resumes its normal course below. It would be much more convenient if people would build their cities on one side of a river, but they never do. There are always some who want to be on the opposite side, and across they go. Toledo is no exception, for she has her East Toledo which occupies the left bank, and consists of several thousand inhabitants. A handsome iron bridge nearly 2000 feet long, affords means of communication between the two parts of the city, to say nothing of three or four large railroad bridges, one of which. the Wheeling and Lake Erie, was until recently, used as a foot bridge. East Toledo was long held in contempt by the people of the other side, who dubbed it "Canada" a name that has clung to it down to the present time. In late years, however, the entire left bank has sprung into great favor among manufacturers who regard it as affording the best sites in the whole city for factories, being available both by rail and water. The location of these factories has given a marked impetus to the growth of the East side, and the improvement of the streets, and the addition of new houses and business blocks have followed in rapid succession.

The great development however, is on the west side of the river. The bank for a distance of eight miles is lined with coal docks, lumber yards and warehouses. In front of these are countless vessels, from the ungainly canal boat to the large, three master, some taking on loads from the piles of black, shining coal that fairly cover the mammoth yards; others standing quiet and motionless by the side of the great lumber depots loaded to the guards with the very best product of the Michigan pineries; while others, emptied of their burden, seem eager to get away again and join the fleets that hurry and scurry through the chains of lakes, making a commercial activity that has no equal in Christendom.

The scene changes above the city. The lumber piles and grain elevators whose tall, dark sides are conspicuous among the surrounding buildings, gradually decrease in number, and at the same time, the water which opposite the city has a turbid and an unwholesome appearance, grows clearer and clearer, until it flashes and sparkles like the emerald in the sun light, The banks, too,



STAND PIPE, 225 FEET HIGH.

add their charms to the scene. At times so low that they seem to melt away into the river; then again they rise up into very respectable bluffs, along the foot of which the water steals noiselessly. Now and then in mid-stream one sees a low green island whose edges are fringed with wild flag and swamp grass.

It is a curious phase of human life that those who have the most blessings appreciate them the least. The number of Toledoans who appreciate the beautiful scenery with which nature has endowed the Maumee River, is very small indeed, and yet, nothing more beautiful can be found anywhere. The banks of the Hudson may be fashioned on a greater scale of magnificence, or the canons of Switzerland may be more sublime, or the forest clad banks of the Rhine may excite greater admiration in the minds of nature's lovers; but for those who are fond of scenery that is neither weird nor awesome, mild yet striking, will find pleasure and profit in visiting the valley of the Maumee.

Toledo is built on gently undulating ground which becomes more elevated as it recedes from the river. The very heart of the city is built on low ground which has been raised artificially above the swamp level, and is now dry and healthful. Summit street is the water-shed between the river and the city, it being fifteen or twenty feet above ordinary water mark, and affording ample protection to that portion of the city lying on the other side. As the years roll by, the water seems to encroach less and less on the river banks. In 1883, Water Street business houses



UNION DEPOT.



JEFFERSON ST. FROM TWENTY-FIRST ST.



MADISON FROM SEVENTEENTH STREET.



NORTH EAST FROM PRODUCE EXCHANGE.



"BLADE" BUILDING.



RESIDENCE OF W. H. SCOTT.



RESIDENCE WM. BAKER.



RESIDENCE L. S. BAUMGARDNER.



IN LENK'S WINE CELLAR.

THE LARGEST CASK IN USE IN THE WORLD. CAPACITY 36,000 GALLONS.



HOTEL HAMILTON.

suffered somewhat from the overflowing of the banks, caused by the ice forming in a jam below the city, but since then there has been no trouble from that source, neither is there likely to be.

In early years Toledo people lived near the river bank just below the business center, and this quarter is even yet a popular place of residence. But as the city grew, and the demands for houses increased, attention was directed to the west end, then sparsely settled, and occupied chiefly by hickory groves. Inevitably, the tide turned that way, and to-day, the finest residences in Toledo are located in that quarter. And surely, no more beautiful building spots exist. It seems like one vast park, and in the summer time when the foliage is in the full height of its glory, and the birds are singing sweet roundelays, the very air breathes of home and comfort and contentment.

The park system of Toledo is yet in its infancy. Many years ago, Hon. Noah H. Swayne offered to the city the large plat of ground known as the Swayne tract, for the sum of $40,000, but the authorities, blind to the future value of the property, refused the offer and thus lost the opportunity for acquiring the best natural park in the country. Since then the property has become desirable as residence property, and a very small part of it has been sold for many times the paltry sum asked for the entire tract.

In the last few years however, the city has greatly improved its park facilities. City Park, which was given to the city by Mr. Peter Lenk, and which for years had been sadly neglected,



LOOKING NORTH FROM THE BLADE BUILDING.



JEFFERSON FROM FOURTEENTH STREET.



SEVENTEENTH ST., FROM JEFFERSON ST.



MEMORIAL BUILDING.



RESIDENCE OF WM. F. WITKER.



RESIDENCE NOAH H. SWAIN.



ANCHORAGE OF OHIO YACHT CLUB.



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. REYNOLDS.

has been transformed into a handsome park which is a popular resort for the citizens living in the immediate vicinity, while it is visited by people from all parts of the city. But, by far, the most important step taken in this line was the act of the council in placing the old House of Refuge grounds under the control of the park board. These grounds are located on the river bank just inside the city limits. The spot is in itself a natural park, and will require very small expenditures to make it entrancing. Drives are being laid out, trees and shrubs set out and such other improvements made as belong to a well regulated park. It is the wish of the board to double the present acreage, which would then enable it to have a park equal to the finest in the country.

A system of small parks has been adopted which promises to be distinctively a Toledo feature. This system contemplates the purchase of the small, triangular tracts which are very frequently found in a city where the streets are laid out irregularly. As soon as the board obtains possession, the park is surrounded with a fine stone walk; trees are planted, and flower beds made. These little improvements cost comparatively little, but it adds wonderfully to the beauty of the city, and furnishes pleasant breathing places for the working men and working women. These are confined to no quarter of the city, but in a few years can be found on almost every street.

Reference has already been made to the health of Toledo, but it is a matter of too much importance to pass by with a mere reference. The city has been unfortunate in having incurred the ill will of surrounding cities in years past, and they have never lost an opportunity to traduce her character. It was much easier for Toledo to get rid of her swamps than it was to outlive the evil reports of which these swamps were made the basis. Miles of doggerel have been written on the Toledo frog ponds and scattered throughout the country; while the malarial atmosphere which hung over them and the miasmal influences which they were supposed to exert on the inhabitants, have been painted in all their hideous colors. It is true that early in the century, Toledo had her frog ponds, and perhaps it is true that, in those days, the most traveled road in the vicinity was the one leading to the grave yard; but how different to-day! The frog ponds have disappeared, the swamps have been filled up and restored to the use of man, while the low places have been drained and transformed into the most valuable sites in the city. The pioneer of 1830 would not recognize in the clean, bright, healthful city of Toledo, the place where he waded up to his neck in mud while running his lines. And yet, through all these years of progress and improvement while this transition has been going on, there has been no change in the



SCENE ON TWENTY-THIRD STREET.

attitude of the city's enemies. They still keep up the old cry of frog pond from sheer force of habit.

The very best evidence showing that Toledo takes high rank in the matter of health was furnished in a report read by Pres. E. T. Nelson, of the State Sanitary board, at a meeting of the board in this city. After quoting statistics showing the mortality rates, Professor Nelson says:—"The average mortality as shown by these statistics, for the past ten years is 14.40; for the past five years, 13.40 per mille.

"As opposed to these telling figures I find the average annual mortality in twenty leading cities of the United States, Toledo included, to be 20.79 per mille. The average of fourteen cities in England 22.3; thirteen cities in the German Empire, 25 ; five cities in France 26.5. The statistics are not more satisfactory when considered by states and countries.

"According to the registrar-general of England, the average annual mortality of the more important European States, taken on a twenty-five year basis, is as follows: England, 22.5; Prussia, 27.7; Italy, 30.1; Austria, 32.

"Returning to the United States we find a mortality in Massachusetts (where the records are admittedly the most accurate), and as the average for the past 25 years, of 19.76, while the death



SOUTH WEST FROM BLADE BUILDING.



MADISON AVE. FROM TWENTY-SECOND ST.



ADAMS AND FRANKLIN AVE.



PRODUCE EXCHANGE.



RESIDENCE JOHN I. KUMLER.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. DAVID R. LOCKE.



AT PRESQUE ISLE.



ENTERPRISE KNITTING WORKS.

rate of the entire country has been assumed to be somewhere between 10 and 20 per 1,000.

"The best results thus obtained, or the present optimum, must be placed at 14 per 1,000, or about the average mortality of the city in which we are now assembled."

Toledo may be said to have passed through three stages of development, all of which have left their mark. When the great North-West was turned into a mammoth wheat field, and millions of bushels of grain were thrown upon the market, Toledo became the natural gate way through which the treasure reached the sea board. Located at the head of Lake Erie, and enveloped in a perfect net work of railroads whose lines stretched into every corner of the East, she afforded facilities for grain shipment that no other city could offer. Thus, she grew to be one of the largest grain entrepots in the United States, and her elevators were kept busy night and day, in the season, receiving and shipping bread material for the East. Employment was thus furnished to hundreds of men, and the city grew apace. Whereas in 1870, it could boast of only 30,000 people, in 1880 the census showed a population of 50,000. A produce exchange was built, and became the central figure in the business transactions. Toledo was truly a commercial city.

The sudden impetus thus given to the city came near working its ruin. Business men grew wild. They saw in their mind's eye a city that should rival in wealth and magnificence ancient



FROM CHERRY ST. BRIDGE.



RESIDENCE OF MORRISON W. YOUNG.



MADISON STREET FROM ELEVENTH.



STEEDMAN MONUMENT.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH.



GERMAN EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH.



MILBURN WAGON WORKS.



PARK SCENE.

Tyre and Carthage. The future of Toledo was the one theme of conversation at the fire-side and in the public places. It absorbed all other interests and so fixed itself upon the people, that they were blind to everything else. Then came the real estate craze. Merchants mortgaged their stocks to raise money with which to buy real estate; vessel men borrowed money and gave their ships as security, for the same purpose, and even the poor man mortgaged his little home that he might buy a cheap lot in anticipation of the great future. Prices went up like a rocket. Fictitious values were placed on every foot of property in the city, and still the merchants and business men bought right and left. Then the bubble burst. The panic of 1873 fell upon the city like a pall. Those who had invested everything they owned or could control in real estate, were placed in terrible straits. The values went down faster than they had gone up, and hundreds of men found themselves land poor. Had a cyclone struck the city, it could not have wrought much greater havoc. Business became depressed, Toledo that had given such great promise was in sore distress. The men whose wealth would have done so much towards making the city beautiful and prosperous, found themselves flat on their backs.

For ten years Toledo suffered from the effects of this real estate bubble. Meanwhile a new element had entered into her commercial life, Previous to 1880, the city could boast of very few factories, owing in great measure, to the high cost of coal as a fuel. But with the construction of the Toledo Central and the Hocking Valley roads, this great drawback was overcome. Toledo was now brought within a few hours of the extensive bituminous coal fields of Ohio, enabling her to obtain fuel as cheap as her sister cities. Immediately, her manufacturing interests began to thrive, and, as with each succeeding year, new wheels were set in motion and new industries sprang up, it grew more and more apparent to her enterprising citizens, that at last, the tide had been turned into the proper channel. The geographical position of the city attracted the attention of manufacturers who sought to be advantageously located with reference to the raw material. Here, the iron of Lake Superior met the coal of Southern Ohio; here the maker of wooden utensils found himself in the very heart of the hickory forests, and but a few miles removed from the pineries of Michigan; here they found lime stone and sand stone; clay without limit, and in short, everything that the manufacturer of staple products could wish. A new life was infused into the community. The whirr of the wheels, the sound of the hammers and the buzz of the saw made joyful music to the citizens, and they entered upon the new existence with zest. Year



SCENE IN WOODLAWN CEMETERY.

by year factories were added, and the older ones gave evidence of rapidly increasing prosperity. Many were already famous, and others were becoming so. The Milburn wagons were known in every State of the Union, in Europe, Australia, and South America. The boilers made by half a dozen different foundries were in demand wherever a boiler was needed. The sewing machines of the Union were meeting the approval and commendation of the house-wife. The wines of the Lenk Wine Co. were sipped by the society belles of New York and other American cities, and were even extending their acquaintance among the nobility of the Old World. The beer of the five breweries was shipped East and West, North and South, wherever the great governing beverage was used. The iron bridges of the Smith Bridge Company span the rivers and creeks in twenty states. The barrels and kegs of the cooper shops found their way into every market of the world. The mowers and reapers of the Toledo company were cutting the grass and the yellow grain of Austria and Russia as well as of the United States. And the new factories that have been in operation less than a decade, are not a whit behind in the reputations they have made. The iron wheels and the baby carriages of the Gendron Company are sent to every civilized country in the world. The product of the rolling mills goes wherever iron is needed for manufacturing purposes. The bolts and nuts are shipped to the four corners of the Union. The wheel



IRON ORE DOCKS.



ST. CLAIR FROM WILLIAMS ST.



FRONT STREET. EAST TOLEDO.



ERIE STREET SCHOOL.



CHERRY STREET BRIDGE.



SCENE IN CITY PARK.



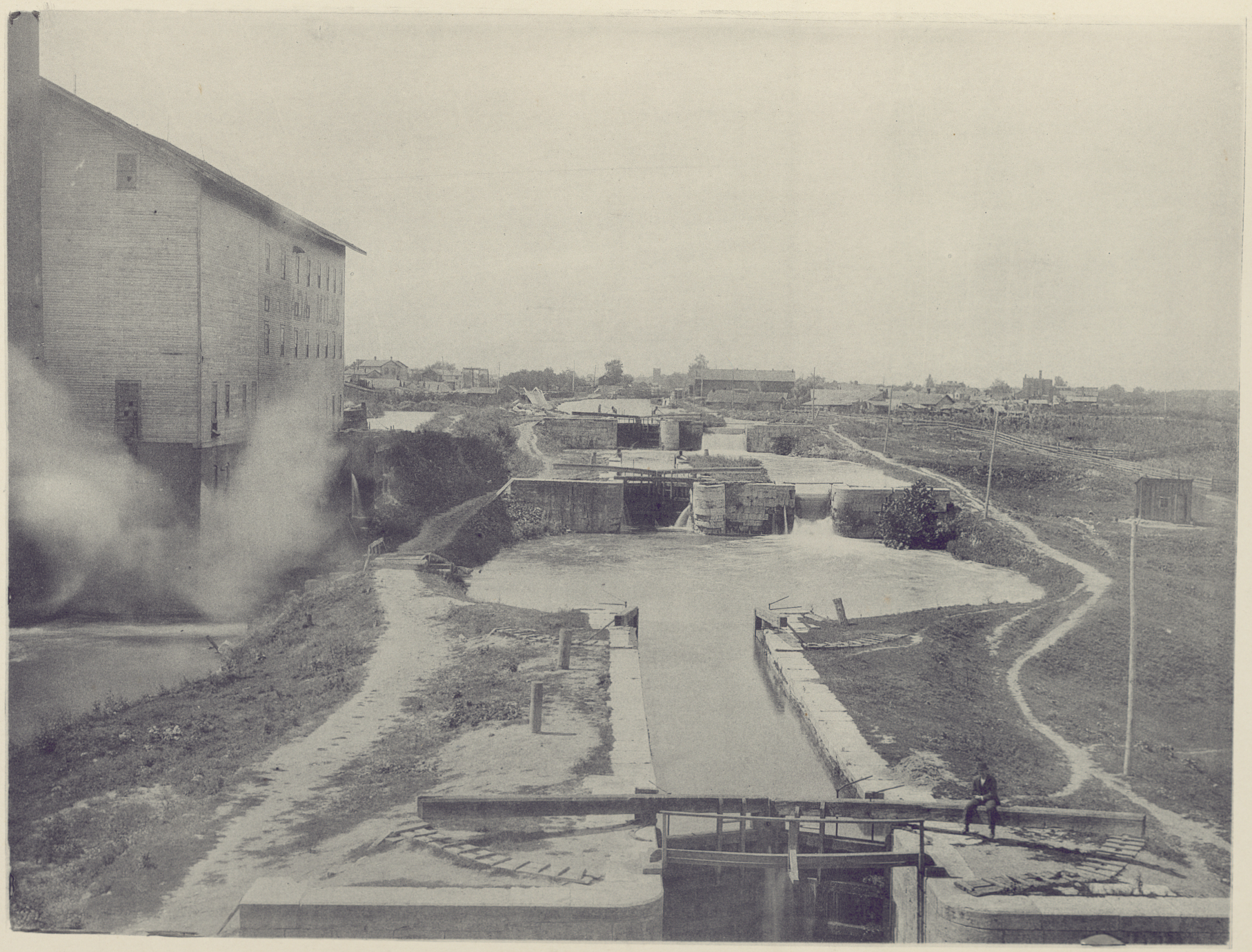
ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL.



SCENE AT TOLEDO ASYLUM FOR INSANE.

barrows, the saws, the pumps, the window glass, the fine glassware of the Libbey Glass Company, the pails, the sashes, doors and blinds, the pins, the carriage wood-work, the picture frames and mouldings, the elevators, the coffees and spices, the knit goods and the thousand other things that are manufactured here, have a ready sale wherever there is a market for those kinds of goods.

A glance at the statistics will show to the reader that the manufacturing industries of the city have been well cared for during the last eight or ten years. In 1850 there were just thirty-eight factories in Toledo, with an aggregate capital stock of $98,200, and affording employment to 263 men. The value of the product was $304,625. Between 1850 and 1880 the number had increased to 440, employing a capital of $5,534,285 and a force of 6,738 men. The value of the product increased at the same time to $10,600,074. To-day there are over 1000 factories in the city, furnishing employment to nearly 20,000 people and requiring a capital of $17,450,000. These figures are abundant evidence of the fact that Toledo is essentially a manufacturing town, and that she has become so in the last fifteen years. Her growth in this direction will be still more rapid in the future. The discovery of natural gas two years ago in North-western Ohio and its utilization as a fuel threatens to revolutionize the manufacturing industries of the country. A manufacturer who gets within the gas belt can undersell any other manufacturer, for the reason



CANAL SCENE.



COUNTY JAIL.



NORTH-WESTERN HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.



HOTEL MADISON.



THE MISSES SMEADS SCHOOL.



RIVER SCENE.

that his fuel is practically free. Thousands of factories have been located within the gas territory since natural gas was brought to the surface, and thousands of manufacturers are flocking in, to locate others. Nature has made it a very paradise for craftsmen.

This then, is the destiny of Toledo. The 12,000 inhabitants of 1860 have increased to over 100,000 in 1888, and by far the greater part of this increase is due to manufacturers. Within the next five years a further increase of 50,000 will have been made, and this too will be due to manufacturers. Carry out the figures by the simple rules of arithmetic for 25 years, and note the result. Then imagine a city of half a million people—earnest, intelligent, hard working, brawny and brainy people—a city noisy with the sound of wheels and hammers and forges, and machinery of all kinds—a city bright and clean as a new penny, for natural gas makes no smoke to blacken walls or begrime buildings—a city whose suburbs are built up with handsome residences and tasteful cottages where the manufacturer and the machinist can find comfort and happiness—a city of magnificent buildings and fine streets and beautiful parks—a city where wealth and health scatter their blessings without stint—a city of good government and good morals. Such may one imagine to be the future of Toledo. The ground work has been well laid; the foundation stones have been set by master workmen, and it only remains for the artisans to complete the structure that has been so well begun.

Bright is the future for the Toledo of the New World.